

Land Warrior

Land Warrior (LW) is designed to provide unprecedented tactical awareness and significant improvements in lethality, survivability, and mobility to dismounted Soldiers and units engaged in the close fight.

LW is a first-generation, integrated, modular fighting system that uses state-of-the-art computer, communications, and geolocation technologies to link dismounted Soldiers into the digital battlefield. LW system components include a computer, helmet mounted display (HMD), navigation module, voice/data radio, and a multifunctional laser that are integrated with the Soldiers' mission equipment. The integrated, modular system approach optimizes fightability with minimal impact on the Soldier's combat load and logistical footprint.

LW-equipped Soldiers are capable of instant voice and data communications with other Soldiers, Command Posts, and supporting vehicles and aircraft. With his HMD the LW-equipped Soldier can see his location, locations of other LW-equipped Soldiers, known enemy positions, and operational graphics on a large-scale map display. He can also engage the enemy, exposing only his hands, by using HMD target images from the weapon-mounted video gunsight or thermal sight. With the multifunctional laser, a Soldier can designate an enemy position to appear on the common map situational awareness display. He can also transmit the enemy position instantly to fire support elements in a digital call-for-fire.



Infantry Soldiers Go High-Tech

History in the Making as the Army Digitizes the Battlefield to Save Lives, Increase Soldier Capabilities



For the first time in military history, American Soldiers are being equipped with digital tools that will go a long way toward eliminating the “fog of war.” The Army has made great strides equipping vehicles and command posts with state-of-the-art digital capabilities. Land Warrior will extend these advantages to Infantry Soldiers in close combat.

Confusion in close combat situations—over location, enemy identification, and the latest orders—is among the challenges the Army’s new Land Warrior and Mounted Warrior fighting systems address. The systems’ proficiency in enhancing situational awareness, and in increasing survivability and lethality, is being assessed at Fort Lewis, Washington.

Program Executive Office (PEO) Soldier and the U.S. Army Infantry Center are conducting a comprehensive assessment of Land Warrior and Mounted Warrior across the areas of Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leadership and Education, Personnel, and Facilities (DOTMLPF). The 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division at Fort Lewis has been equipped with 440 Land Warrior Systems and 147 Mounted Warrior Systems. Land Warrior combines computers, lasers, navigation modules, radios, and other technologically advanced equipment to improve Soldiers’ battlefield communications ability, situational awareness, and, ultimately, their ability to fight effectively and survive. Mounted Warrior, designed for combat vehicle crewmen, includes communications and displays that will improve situational awareness on or off the vehicle.

Land and Mounted Warriors will be able to receive voice data and tactical Internet connectivity in order to communicate effectively with troops on the ground, Mounted Warriors in other vehicles, and unit leaders. For the first time ever, large-scale map displays will show the Soldier his location, the location of his buddies, vehicle locations, known enemy positions, and up-to-the minute mission plans and orders. Weapon systems equipped with multifunctional laser sights, day and night vision feeds, and direct connectivity to the Land Warrior and Mounted Warrior networks increase the Soldiers’ combat effectiveness while minimizing exposure to the enemy. Precise navigation and real-time, common situational awareness substantially reduce the risk of fratricide or surprise enemy attacks.

During May and June, more than 400 Soldiers at Fort Lewis completed combat training on the systems in preparation for the assessment, which continued through the summer and ended with a limited user test in September. Assessment results will be used by Army leaders to determine tactics, techniques, procedures, and the future direction of the Land Warrior and Mounted Warrior programs.

For more information or to arrange a visit to the Assessment Headquarters at Ft. Lewis, Washington, please contact Debi Dawson at 703-704-2802.